

# Abdu'l-Bahá's Travels to the West

## Budapest and Vienna

8-25 April 1913

Travels of 'Abdu'l-Bahá 49

# Budapest, Hungary

The night of 8 April, 'Abdu'l-Bahá took the train to Budapest, Hungary, where there were no Bahá'ís, changing trains in Vienna. Many important people welcomed Him. He admired the panoramic view of the Danube River, and walked across the Chain Bridge to Buda.

Budapest  
Danube River  
and Chain  
Bridge





Budapest  
Danube River  
and Chain  
Bridge





Budapest  
Danube River  
and Chain  
Bridge



# Budapest

He told his visitors that *“it was his hope that Budapest might become a centre for the reunion of the East and the West, and that from this city the light might emanate to other places.”*

(‘Abdu’l-Baha, in Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p. 317)

# Budapest

He met with Turkish students, and gave a talk to fifty people at the Theosophical meeting. On 11 April, He spoke in the old Parliament building in Budapest, standing on a high platform directly under two white-winged angels holding Hungary's coat of arms. A Catholic prelate stood on one side of Him, and a Jewish orientalist on the other, representing the reconciliation of these two great religions. All the seats were occupied, many stood in the gallery and aisles, and even out to the street.



Budapest  
Old  
Parliament  
Building





Budapest  
Old  
Parliament  
Building



# Budapest

On 14 April, 'Abdu'l-Bahá was invited to speak at the former House of Magnates in the National Museum Building to 200 prominent men and women, giving them a plan to create an enduring peace.





National  
Museum  
Building



**“EGY FA GYÜMÖLCSEI VAGYTOK  
ÉS EGY ÁG LEVELEI”**

**BAHÁU'LLÁH (1817 - 1892)**

**ÜLTETTÜK ANNAK EMLÉKÉRE, HOGY  
ABDU'L-BAHÁ 1913-BAN,  
NYOLCVAN ÉVE LÁTOGATOTT BUDAPESTRE  
ÉS A NEMZETI MÚZEUMBAN TARTOTT  
ELŐADÁST.**

**MAGYARORSZÁGI BAHÁI KÖZÖSSÉG 1993.**

**National  
Museum  
Building**

**Plaque  
commemorating  
'Abdu'l-Bahá's  
visit**

# Robert Nadler portrait

Professor Robert Nadler of the Royal Academy of Art asked to paint a portrait of ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, and He agreed. Nadler later said “I marvelled at His expression of peace and pure love and absolute good-will. He saw everything with such a nice eye; everything was beautiful to ‘Abdu’l-Bahá, both the outer life of Budapest and the souls of all.... Oh, He had so many beautiful thoughts! I was inspired, and I knew I did not have much time, so I concentrated very much.”

(Earl Redman, *‘Abdu’l-Bahá in Their Midst*, Oxford: George Ronald, 2011, p.320)



Portrait of 'Abdu'l-Bahá in  
Budapest by Róbert Nádler,  
a celebrated painter and  
teacher at the Academy of  
Fine Arts and president of  
the city's Theosophical  
Society



# Vienna

On 18 April, 'Abdu'l-Bahá left by train for Vienna, and stayed until 24 April. The afternoon of His arrival, He went to give a talk at the Theosophical Hall, climbing up 120 steps in very cold weather with heavy snow falling. He spoke for two hours, and addressed them two more times while in Vienna. He was visited by Baroness Bertha von Suttner, a novelist, leading figure in the international peace movement, and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1905.



Baroness Bertha von Suttner – Nobel Peace Prize 1905